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LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing adjunct access for a circuit in a network management system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - identifying a non-managed portion of a circuit, wherein the non-managed portion of the circuit comprises a network portion including equipment and links unknown to the network management system;
 - identifying a first managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit;
 - identifying a second managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit; and
 - providing a link between the first managed portion of the circuit and the second managed portion of the circuit, the link adapted for being characterized as a managed entity by a management system.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the link is coupled to at least one of a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the link comprises at least one of a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the link comprises at least one of a digital carrier and an optical carrier.
5. (Currently Amended) A method for designing a continuous circuit, comprising the steps of:
 - determining whether a non-managed portion of a circuit exists;

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identifying the non-managed portion of the circuit, wherein the non-managed portion of the circuit comprises a network portion including equipment and links unknown to a network management system;

representing the non-managed portion of the circuit as a first network element, the first network element adapted for being characterized as a managed entity by the network management system;

identifying a second network element in a managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit; and

providing a link between the first network element and the second network element, the link adapted for being characterized as a managed carrier link by the network management system.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the link is coupled to at least one of:

a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the link comprises at least one of:

a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the link comprises at least one of:

a digital carrier and an optical carrier.

9. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to provision a circuit;

selecting a path for the circuit within a network comprising a plurality of network elements;

assigning links bridging non-managed portions of the circuit path by:

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identifying, for each of the non-managed portions of the circuit path, a first managed portion of the circuit path and a second managed portion of the circuit path; and

providing, for each of the non-managed portions of the circuit path, a link between the first managed portion of the circuit and the second managed portion of the circuit; and

characterizing the assigned links as managed carrier links;

wherein the non-managed portions of the circuit path comprise network portions including equipment and links unknown to a network management system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

determining if cross-connect network elements exist for bridging non-managed portions of said circuit path to managed portions of said circuit path; and

assigning available cross-connect network elements to appropriate links bridging non-managed portions of said circuit.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said non-managed portions of said network comprise at least one of adjunct access facilities or leased facilities.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for designing a continuous circuit, comprising:

a processor and an associated storage device including instructions for controlling said processor, said instructions, when executed, causing said processor to perform the steps of:

determining whether a non-managed portion of a circuit exists;

identifying the non-managed portion of the circuit, wherein the non-managed portion of the circuit comprises a network portion including equipment and links unknown to a network management system;

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representing the non-managed portion of the circuit as a first network element, the first network element adapted for being characterized as a managed entity by the network management system;

identifying a second network element in a managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit; and

providing a link between the first network element and the second network element in the managed portion of the circuit, the link adapted for being characterized as a managed carrier link by the network management system.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the link is coupled to at least one of:

a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the link comprises at least one of:

a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the link comprises at least one of:

a digital carrier, and an optical carrier.